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FREQUENT SHIFT OF PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENT DISORGANIZES PLANT -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 13 Aug 53

Ulitsa Krasina and Proletarskaya Ulitsa, two streets adjacent to the Ryazan' Ryazsel'mash Plant, are cluttered up with completed potato diggers which are now badly needed for potato crop harvesting. The plant director, Timofey Petrovich Kruglikov, states that potato diggers are parked on the streets because the plant has no parking facilities.

It is true that the plant is squeezed in between city blocks, neighboring enterprises, and railroad tracks; but the main reason why potato diggers are on the streets instead of on railroad flatcars is the fact that they are not fully equipped according to requirements. One of the basic parts of the potato digger is an elevator for cleaning the dirt from the potatoes. This elevator is made up of 250 iron-rod-type links. Requirements call for a duplicate set of iron-rod-type links to go with each potato digger. This duplicate set has not been supplied by the plant, and inspectors refuse to approve the machines.

This difficulty could have been easily overcome, for the plant has five automatic stamping machines for production of iron-rod-type links. The plant uses only two of these stamping machines, owing to a shortage of skilled operators. Very often, unskilled workers are assigned to operate these machines, thus creating additional delay in assembling the digging machines. This is not the first year that the plant has been hopelessly struggling with organizing the work of its automatic stamping machines, a problem which it has created itself.

The greatest blame for conditions existing at the plant falls on Glavsel'mash (Main Administration of Agricultural Machine Building), Ministry of Machine Building, which does not give the plant a chance to get settled. Glavsel'mash is constantly changing the plant's production assignment from one type of machine to another, without any apparent need.

The Ryazsel'mash Plant is one of the oldest plants of the agricultural machine building industry. The plant has designed and produced combines which, according to the plant's chief engineer, Petr Afanas'yevich Trofimov, are far ahead of US and English models. The plant has produced the KOK-2 potato combine and is developing the KGR-2 potato combine. The KOK-2 potato combine is already in use in agriculture. It has one drawback in that it can work on light soil only. The KGR-2 potato combine can work on any soil. The KGR-2 collects potatoes in a hopper and unloads them directly onto a truck. Although the KGR-2 is somewhat heavy, it has great possibilities, and promises, together with potato planters and hillers, to mechanize potato growing completely.

In the plant's yard, there is the framework of an assembly conveyor for the assembly of potato combines, but the conveyor will not be completed because Glavsel'mash has ordered the Ryazsel'mash Plant to discontinue the production of potato combines starting with the fourth quarter of 1953.

The Ryazsel'mash Plant was assigned the production of the SKG-4 checkrow four-row potato planter. After the plant had organized production and produced 1,650 SKG-4 planters, 150 above the norm, it was told to stop producing. The production of the SKG-4 planter was given to a plant in Belinskiy, Penzenskaya Oblast.

Seven agricultural machine building plants were ordered to supply the Ryazsel'mash plant with 48 different parts for hillers and potato diggers. Not one of the plants carried out the order of P. N. Pigolkin, chief of Glavsel'mash. There are scores of hillers standing in the yard of the Ryazsel'mash Plant unfinished because the Krasnyy Oskol Plant failed to deliver chisel-shaped cultivating teeth.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

Pigolkin hints that the Ryazsel'mash Plant will be producing thousands of potato combines for light soil in the fourth quarter of 1953, but Pigolkin will not give any written orders.

The Tula plant will produce the KKR-2 potato combine according to orders issued by Glavsel'mash. [redacted] for production assignments.

The designers of the Ryazsel'mash Plant are away, one in Belinskiy and another in Tula, helping plants in those cities to organize production of machines formerly produced by the Ryazsel'mash Plant, which had the setup for the production of these machines.

The Ryazsel'mash Plant has no idea what it will produce and is not getting any help from Glavsel'mash.

NEED AGRICULTURAL MACHINES ADAPTABLE TO NORTHERN REGIONS -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 19 Aug 53

M. Gusev, deputy chairman of the Executive Committee, Kologrivskiy Rayon, Kostromskaya Oblast, wants agricultural machine designers to consider peculiarities of the soil in northern regions when designing new machines. Gusev writes that five-furrow plows produced by the Odessa Plant imeni Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya sink in the soil of that region because they are equipped with narrow-rim wheels. The LT-7 flax pullers and the LA-7 flax combines are also giving trouble because they are mounted on narrow-rim wheels. The S-4 self-propelled combine is too heavy for rugged country; it has not enough power to go uphill, especially when its hopper is full.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

- 3 -

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